

TOWN OF GRANTHAM NEW HAMPSHIRE

TOWN MEETING MINUTES YEAR 2015

SS. STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

SULLIVAN COUNTY

Moderator Susanna Schweizer called the 239th Annual Town Meeting to order at 5:10pm. The assembly was lead in the Pledge of Allegiance by the Grantham Cub Scout Troop 276.

The 2014 Town Report was dedicated to Merle Schotanus. Selectman Ken Story noted that Merle was not able to be at Town Meeting and read from a letter from Merle. In the letter Merle said that he was struck speechless when the Town Administrator presented him with a copy of the 2014 Town Meeting Report and told him that it was dedicated to him. Selectman Story went on to say that we thank Merle and appreciate all he has done for our town.

Moderator Schweizer stated that the meeting having been properly warned as it is certified on page 64 of the Town Report and by the authority vested in me by the laws of the State of New Hampshire I do now declare the 239th Annual Meeting of the Town of Grantham officially opened for business. Polls were officially opened at 10:00am for ballot voting and close at 7:00pm. Absentee ballots were counted at 1:00pm in the afternoon.

Moderator Schweizer introduced Selectmen Constance Jones, Kenneth Story and Warren Kimball; Town Administrator Melissa White; Town Clerk/Tax Collector Rita Friedman, Deputy Town Clerk/Tax Collector Cindy Towle; Supervisors of the Checklist: Donna Stamper, Sandra Noordsey, Suzanne Goldman; Assistant Moderator Lorie McClory; Ballot Clerks: Paula Dorr, Michael Holdowsky, Maynard Goldman and Lorie McClory.

2015 Town Meeting Rules

1. Non-voters who are officers of the Town may be allowed to address the meeting only if the voters agree to permit it; simple majority vote required.
2. All voters will direct their remarks to the moderator. Whenever a voter wishes to speak, s/he will go the microphone, address the moderator and identify him/herself, giving a street address. There is no need to say you are from Grantham. The microphone is necessary for accurate recording of the meeting.

- a. The microphone will also be used by people wanting to “move the question.” I will not recognize anyone shouting it out from his or her seat. This will avoid preempting people who are already in line to speak to an issue.
 - b. In order for everyone to have the opportunity to speak, speakers will be limited to three minutes (with the exception of initial presentations on warrant articles).
 - c. No one will be recognized to speak a second time until everyone who wishes to speak a first time has had the opportunity.
 - d. If you agree with someone, it is OK to say that instead of repeating something that has already been said.
3. Unless superseded by State Law, reconsideration of a vote on any article should be brought up immediately after the vote has been declared. No motion to reconsider will be accepted after we move on to the next warrant article.
 - a. Only a voter on the prevailing side may ask for reconsideration.
 - b. A vote on the issuance of bonds or notes over \$100,000 cannot be reconsidered at the same meeting.
 - c. The town may also vote to restrict reconsideration of any other vote in the same manner.
4. The moderator will conduct a secret “yes-no” ballot when five [5] voters make a written request prior to the voice or show of hands vote on any article open for discussion. The five [5] voters requesting the secret ballot must be in the room at the time of the request.
5. Any ruling by the moderator can be challenged. The moderator will conduct a secret “yes-no” ballot when seven [7] voters question any non-ballot vote immediately after the vote is declared and before any other business is conducted.
6. All proposed amendments to articles must be submitted in writing to the moderator prior to the discussion of the amendment. The moderator has forms available if anyone needs one to write out an amendment.
7. Registered voters only will be seated in the center section of the meeting hall bounded by the pillars. Non-voters will be seated in the visitor’s gallery in the area outside the chain links to my left.

ARTICLE 1 – Election of Officers

To choose by ballot and major vote for the ensuing years as enumerated:

Kenneth Story	3 years
Peter A Gillette	3 years
Carl Hanson	3 years
Robert A Lewis	3 years
Russell Bailey Jr	1 year
Edward C Jenik Jr	3 years
Robert B McCarthy	3 years
Suzanne S Goldman	6 years

ARTICLE 2 – It was moved and seconded: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of nine hundred and fifty three thousand nine hundred and seventy eight dollars (\$953,978) for the purpose of renovation and addition construction, including site work, landscaping and parking lot expansion, and equipping and furnishing to the Dunbar Free Library. Two hundred sixteen thousand five hundred dollars (\$216,500) to come from library capital reserve and two hundred forty two thousand four hundred seventy eight dollars (\$242,478) to come from private funds the library has custody of. Further to authorize the issuance of not more than four hundred and ninety-five thousand dollars (\$495,000) of bonds or notes in accordance with the provisions of the Municipal Finance Act, RSA 33:1 et seq. as amended; and to authorize the Selectmen to issue, sell and deliver said bonds or notes and to determine the rate of interest there on and to apply for, obtain and accept federal, state or other aid, if any, which may be available for said project and to comply with all laws applicable to said project; and to authorize the Selectmen to take any other action or to pass any other vote relative thereto. **2/3 Ballot vote required. Recommended by the Selectmen**

The Moderator called upon Katrina McCurley, Chairperson of the Trustees of Dunbar Free Library to present information about the library expansion. She was followed by Ed Jenik who gave details of the design for the new addition. He explained the bond issue and what the financial impact would be on the townspeople.

Moderator Schweizer explained that the vote was by ballot and that the ballot box would be opened from 5:45pm until 7:15 pm.

Total Votes 226 Yes 194 No 32

Article 2 Passed by required 2/3 majority

ARTICLE 3 – It was moved and seconded: To see if the Town will vote to approve the following resolution to be forwarded to our Governor and State Legislators: “Resolved that the State of New Hampshire provide a comprehensive meaningful system of funding for State Education needs. To see if the Town will vote to ask our Governor and our State Legislators to reform state funding for education with that reform to be directed to significant reduction of property taxes. The record of the vote approving this article shall be transmitted by written notice from the Select Board to the Governor and State Legislators informing them of the instructions from their constituents within 30 days of the vote.”

Recommended by the Selectmen (Majority vote required)

Selectman Jones was recognized to comment. She stated that this article lets our legislators know that we are very concerned about our escalating property taxes.

Article 3 Passed by Majority Voice Vote

ARTICLE 4 – General Government

It was moved and seconded: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of one million one hundred eighty nine thousand ninety five dollars (**\$1,189,095.00**) to defray the cost of **General Government** operations. This article does not include appropriations contained in special or individual articles addressed separately.

Recommended by the Selectmen (Majority vote required)

Account Title	Budget 2014/2015	Proposed 2015/2016
Selectmen’s Office	\$200,700	\$208,150
Town Clerk/Tax Collector	\$112,706	\$116,350
Supervisors of the Checklist	\$6,200	\$4,500
Financial Administration	\$36,700	\$40,200
Tax Maps/Assessing	\$41,000	\$42,000
Legal	\$20,000	\$30,000
Personnel Administration	\$536,100	\$556,119
Planning Board	\$7,750	\$21,750
Zoning Board of Adjustment	\$2,175	\$2,375
General Government Buildings	\$114,100	\$114,100
Cemeteries	\$18,100	\$18,200
Insurance	\$29,492	\$31,416
Regional Associations	\$3,860	\$3,935
TOTAL	\$1,128,883	\$1,189,095

Article 4 Passed by Unanimous Voice Vote

ARTICLE 5 – Public Safety

It was moved and seconded: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of six hundred one thousand two hundred fourteen dollars (**\$601,214.00**) to defray the cost of **Public Safety** operations. This article does not include appropriations contained in special or individual articles addressed separately.

Recommended by the Selectmen (Majority vote required)

Account Title	Budget 2014/2015	Proposed 2015/2016
Police Department	\$370,680	\$382,418
Ambulance (FAST Squad)	\$69,450	\$71,026
Fire Department	\$119,879	\$126,670
Building Inspection	\$8,000	\$8,500
Emergency Management	\$13,100	\$12,600
TOTAL	\$581,109	\$601,214

Article 5 Passed by Unanimous Voice Vote

ARTICLE 6 – It was moved and seconded: To see if the town will vote to authorize the Selectmen to enter into a five-year, \$175,000 lease/purchase agreement for the purpose of leasing to purchase sixteen (16) new Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA's) and compressor filling station and to raise and appropriate the sum of \$40,386 for the first year's payment for that purpose. This agreement contains an escape clause.

Recommended by the Selectmen (Majority vote required)

Article 6 Passed by Unanimous Voice Vote

ARTICLE 7 – It was moved and seconded: To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of twenty thousand dollars (\$20,000) for the purchase and installation of an engine exhaust removal system for the Fire Department.

Recommended by the Selectmen (Majority vote required)

Article 7 Passed by Unanimous Voice Vote

ARTICLE 8 – It was moved and seconded: It was moved and seconded: To see if the town will vote to authorize the Selectmen to enter into a three-year, \$33,463 lease/purchase agreement for the purpose of leasing to purchase a new 2015 AWD Dodge Charger Police Cruiser, and to raise and appropriate the sum of \$13,505 for the first year's payment for that purpose, with an estimated \$2,000 to come from trade-in; the remainder to come from taxation. This agreement contains an escape clause.

Recommended by the Selectmen (Majority vote required)

Moderator Schweizer announced that a request was received to hold a secret ballot. The 5 people that signed the petition were present.

Article 8 Passed by Majority Yes/No Ballot Yes 104 No 63

ARTICLE 9 – Public Works

It was moved and seconded: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of seven hundred fourteen thousand five hundred twenty dollars (**\$714,520.00**) to defray the cost of **Public Works** operation. This article does not include appropriations contained in special or individual articles addressed separately.

Recommended by the Selectmen (Majority vote required)

Account Title	Budget 2014/2015	Proposed 2015/2016
Highway Administration	\$216,700	\$221,220
Highway Maintenance	\$156,200	\$147,200
Street Lights	\$5,000	\$5,000
Transfer Station	\$130,412	\$137,100
Waste Disposal	\$204,000	\$196,000
Landfill Monitoring	\$8,000	\$8,000
TOTAL	\$720,312	\$714,520

Article 9 Passed by Unanimous Voice Vote

ARTICLE 10 – Highway Department 1-Ton Truck

It was moved and seconded: To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$85,000 for the purchase of a new 1-Ton Truck for the Highway Department and to authorize withdrawal of eighty-five thousand dollars (\$85,000) from the Highway Equipment Capital Reserve Fund previously established for that purpose. No amount to be raised from taxation.

Recommended by the Selectmen (Majority vote required)

Article 10 Passed by Unanimous Voice Vote

ARTICLE 11 – Miller Pond Road Bridge Rehabilitation/Replacement

It was moved and seconded: To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate four-hundred thousand dollars (\$400,000) for the rehabilitation/replacement of the Miller Pond Road Bridge to come from the General Fund Unassigned Fund Balance. No amount to be raised from taxation. This will be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7, VI and will not lapse until the project is completed or by June 30, 2019, whichever is sooner.

Recommended by the Selectmen (Majority vote required)

Article 11 Passed by Unanimous Voice Vote

ARTICLE 12 – Health and Welfare

It was moved and seconded: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of forty-two thousand three hundred dollars (**\$42,300.00**) to defray the cost of **Health and Welfare** operations. This article does not include appropriations contained in special or individual articles addressed separately.

Recommended by the Selectmen (Majority vote required)

Account Title	Budget 2014/2015	Proposed 2015/2016
Boarding Animals	\$700	\$700
Community Services	\$15,970	\$16,600
Town General Assistance	\$20,000	\$25,000
TOTAL	\$36,670	\$42,300

Community Agencies:	Budget 2014/2015	Proposed 2015/2016
Lake Sunapee VNA	\$8,000	\$8,000
Sullivan County Nutrition Services	\$200	\$200
Kearsarge Area COA	\$3,000	\$3,500
Southwestern Community Services	\$850	\$900
West Central Services	\$2,420	\$2,500
Mascoma Valley Health Initiative	\$1,000	\$1,000
Community Alliance of Human Services	\$500	\$500
Total	\$15,970	\$16,600

The Moderator received an amendment from Rae Tober to increase the proposed amount for Kearsarge Area COA from \$3,500 to \$3,800. Ms. Tober stated that Grantham residents benefited from the Kearsarge COA and the requested increase was less than if the Town of Grantham paid for these services for the residents. **Amendment Passed by Majority Voice Vote**

ARTICLE 12 – Health and Welfare (as amended)

It was moved and seconded: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of forty-two thousand six hundred dollars (**\$42,600.00**) to defray the cost of **Health and Welfare** operations. This article does not include appropriations contained in special or individual articles addressed separately.

Recommended by the Selectmen (Majority vote required)

Account Title	Budget 2014/2015	Proposed 2015/2016
Boarding Animals	\$700	\$700
Community Services	\$15,970	\$16,900
Town General Assistance	\$20,000	\$25,000
TOTAL	\$36,670	\$42,600

Community Agencies:	Budget 2014/2015	Proposed 2015/2016
Lake Sunapee VNA	\$8,000	\$8,000
Sullivan County Nutrition Services	\$200	\$200
Kearsarge Area COA	\$3,000	\$3,800
Southwestern Community Services	\$850	\$900
West Central Services	\$2,420	\$2,500
Mascoma Valley Health Initiative	\$1,000	\$1,000
Community Alliance of Human Services	\$500	\$500
Total	\$15,970	\$16,900

There being no further comments or discussion on article 12 as amended the vote was called.

Article 12 Passed by Unanimous Voice Vote

ARTICLE 13 – Culture and Recreation

It was moved and seconded: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of two hundred sixty-six thousand six hundred thirteen dollars (**\$266,613.00**) for **Culture and Recreation**. This article does not include appropriations contained in special or individual articles addressed separately.

Recommended by the Selectmen (Majority vote required)

Account Title	Budget 2014/2015	Proposed 2015/2016
Recreation	\$43,757	\$45,976
Dunbar Free Library	\$186,769	\$191,837
Activities	\$27,000	\$27,800
Archives	\$1,000	\$1,000
TOTAL	\$258,526	\$266,613

The Moderator recognized Erin Ames who questioned the increase in the recreation line. Athletic Director Marsha Googins informed that the increase in the Recreation line was due to the new dedicated soccer field and the need for another set of goals. Use of the fields have increased so much that there is a need for another set of goals so that the 200 pound goals do not have to be dragged from one field to the other. This will also protect the integrity of the fields.

Article 13 Passed by Unanimous Voice Vote

ARTICLE 14 – Conservation, Debt Principal, Debt Interest, and Tax Anticipation Note Interest

It was moved and seconded: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of one hundred thirty-three thousand eight hundred eighty three dollars (\$133,883.00) for **Conservation, Debt Principal, Debt Interest, and Tax Anticipation Note Interest**. This article does not include appropriations contained in special or individual articles addressed separately.

Recommended by the Selectmen (Majority vote required)

Account Title	Budget 2014/2015	Proposed 2015/2016
Conservation Commission	\$2,100	\$5,400
Town Hall Bond Payment	\$60,000	\$60,000
Town Hall Bond Interest	\$34,200	\$28,200
Library Bond Interest	\$0.00	\$8,580
Highway Plow Truck Lease	\$44,031	\$31,603
Tax Anticipation Notes Interest	\$100	\$100
TOTAL	\$140,431	\$133,883

Article 14 Passed by Unanimous Voice Vote

ARTICLE 15 – Capital Reserve Funds

It was moved and seconded: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of eighty-nine thousand dollars (\$89,000.00) to be placed in previously established **Capital Reserve Funds**. This article does not include appropriations contained in special or individual articles addressed separately.

Recommended by the Selectmen (Majority vote required)

Account Title	Budget 2014/2015	Proposed 2015/2016
Fire Department Capital Reserve	\$25,000	\$10,000
Highway Equip Capital Reserve	\$50,000	\$30,000
Town Office Equip Capital Reserve	\$1,000	\$1,000
Transfer Station Capital Reserve	\$10,000	\$5,000
Police Vehicle Capital Reserve	\$0	\$10,000
Revaluation	\$45,000	\$10,000
Town Buildings	\$5,000	\$5,000
Bridge Replacement Capital Reserve	\$50,000	\$0
Library Building Repair Capital Reserve	\$10,000	\$15,000
Town Clerk/Tax Collector Equipment CRF	\$2,000	\$3,000
TOTAL	\$198,000.00	\$89,000

Article 15 Passed by Unanimous Voice Vote

ARTICLE 16 – Library Expansion Capital Reserve Fund

It was moved and seconded: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000.00) to be placed in previously established **Library Expansion Capital Reserve Fund**.

Recommended by the Selectmen (Majority vote required)

Article 16 Passed by Unanimous Voice Vote

ARTICLE 17 – End of Meeting

It was moved and seconded: To hear the reports of agents, officers, and committees heretofore chosen, to pass any vote relating thereto, and to transact any other business that may legally come before said meeting.

Recommended by the Selectmen (Majority vote required)

Selectman Kimball informed that the nominees for Hog Reeves are Andrew Benton and Andree Godmarie; for Fence Viewers, David Armstrong and Jennifer Bean. Passed by unanimous voice vote.

The Moderator recognized Bob MacNeil. Mr. MacNeil addressed the Audit Report provided by Plodzick & Sanderson. He informed that this year's report states that we are not properly recording the benefits and pensions costs for employees. He referred to various paragraphs in the audit on pages 127 and 128 in the 2015 Town Report. His concern is that we are not complying with required procedures. Selectman Jones responded that she would follow up with this matter "tomorrow". Selectman Jones read the *Unmodified Opinion* paragraph and the two paragraphs under *Other Matters*. This reading ended with the last sentence: "In our opinion, the combining and individual fund financial schedules are fairly stated, in all material respects, in relation to the basic financial statements as a whole".

There being no further business or reports, Moderator Schweizer declared the 239th Town Meeting adjourned at 7:30pm.

A true copy attest,



Rita Friedman, Town Clerk/Tax Collector
March 17, 2015